

THE Christian History;

Containing Accounts of the Propagation and Revival
of Religion in *England Scotland and America.*

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*Saturday* NOVEMBER 26. 1743. § N<sup>o</sup>. 30.  
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Mr. Robe's Narrative continued.

THERE was a good *Woman* who I doubt not was a real Christian, who blam'd the People much for crying out, and said, * *Could they not be serious enough without crying?* Sabbath was eight Days she was made to cry *but her self*, and was not able to come from the Place of Meeting to my House without being supported by two Men: She acknowledges this Day that she justly met with it for her Rashness. --- *Last Lord's Day* there were a good many awaken'd at *Cumbernauld*.--- I cannot precisely tell how many the Number of the Awaken'd are with us now, for I have not Time to number them.

Monday *July* 28. There are now Praises to the Builder up of *Zion* appearing in his Glory, such a Number of the Awakened as gives me no Respite; neither do I allow my self to desire it, seeing I am not call'd to work in my own Strength. The LORD was graciously with us yesternight: There were seven awakened yestterday newly: The *Child of six* was in great Distress during the most Part of the Sermon: I asked her at Night, * *What she would give to get CHRIST*: She answered with a great deal of Compasure, * *I would part with my Life to have him*; at which I was amazed.

Blessed be the LORD we are every Day getting Encouragement by some being brought to Relief: Those who have got it, walk answerably: We are, GOD willing, to observe *Wednesday* as a Day of *Thanksgiving* to the GOD of our extraordinary Mercy: I beg you, and others will remember us that Day.

Wednesday *June* 30. The Lord hath been graciously present with us this Day. I looked upon it as a Token for

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Good;

Good, that we had a great Congregation, seeing it was set apart for solemn *Thanksgiving* to GOD. I am perswaded it was the best observed *Day of Thanksgiving*, in every Shape, that ever was in *Kilfyth*; yet vastly short of what should have been rendered, according to the Benefit. We look to the great Altar, Sacrifice and High-Priest for Acceptance. I preached from *Matth. xxi. 16.* From which I prosecuted these two Purposes; 1. That extraordinary Comings of the LORD JESUS to his Temple and Ordinances, should be welcomed with extraordinary Praises, and that he is pleased when it is so. 2dly. That when he comes he'll provide for his Praise by those who are unlikely and unfeasible in the World's Eye; which made two Sermons in the Forenoon: We had a good Sermon from Mr. Young in the Afternoon. There were *three* newly awakened brought to me this Day, belonging to this Congregation: There were doubtless many more, for the Concern was great.---*Five* were added to the Awakened at *Cumbernauld* last Lord's Day: Blessed be the GOD of our Salvation, the Face of the Congregation and Country-side is changed.

Friday *July 2.* Blessed for ever more be our GOD in CHRIST, for his continued marvellous Grace: I have *fifteen* new awakened this Week before this Day. I know of *two* more this Day: And expect others to Morrow. I have been at *Cumbernauld* all this Day, and I think *the Body* of this Parish. There was a *very great Cry* in the Congregation, not only while the Terrors of the Law were preached, but the Comforts of the Gospel: The former five were awakened this Day: I hear more and more of the vast Change there is upon the Face of this Parish: Iniquity as ashamed hides its Head; the Wolf and the Lamb dwell together.--- I am obliged to stop at the Cry of a Number of Distress'd coming into the Closet.

There hath been brought to me, and come in about a *Dozen* in great Distress, most of them *young*; some of them awakened at *home* this Day, and some at *Cumbernauld*: One of them was awakened while I was speaking to the rest: One weeding Corn to Day: They were in such Distress, that I could only speak in general to them. One of them was looked upon as a---: O amazing Grace: I beg you'll pray for me: I shall have People to converse with me all Day to Morrow, and no Body to preach for me on the Lord's Day; yet I will

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not fear, for I trust in the LORD : I doubt not but he will be my Strength for all he calls to.

Monday *July 5.* The LORD is making us *Fishers of Men* indeed : He is present ; and while we toiled Years in his Absence, and to Apprehension caught nothing ; at every letting down of the Gospel-Net, some are caught ; he is driving them into the Net ; and making some pray to be enclosed : Endless Praises be, and will be to him for it. Yesterday * was a *Bochim* in the Congregation for unworthy communicating ; and this Evening there was a great Cry in the Church : Mr. G--- Minister at *Carnock*, who came here this Afternoon preached : Last Week the newly awakened were about *thirty six*, of which about *twelve* or *fourteen* were awakened at *Cumbernauld Friday* last : Yesterday, and this Day there were *fifteen* new, all belonging to this Congregation : Three of them were awakened while Mr.---- preached. We never had so great a Number in so short a Time. Every Day I have some acquainting me with their Relief, which I find in the most to be solid and good. I have conversed with about *forty* this Day from the Town of *Kilfyth* besides others : I trusted in the LORD for Yesterday, and was helped.--- I had with me on *Saturday* an honest Man from *Muthil*, where Mr. *Haly* is Minister, who informs me there have been, since *March fifty* awakened in that Parish ; for which I bless the LORD --- There is a Person in this Country--- who is jealous that his Family ow'd to the late --- about 10 Shillings : He hath put it into my Hands to give it to *his Heirs*. I know no Hand so fit as your's to do it, seeing it may be some Time 'ere I come to Town, and do not know his Heirs : You'll please to receive it from the Bearer.

Thursday, July 8. There were *eighteen* awakned yesterday, *Sabbath* last and *since*, all belonging to the Congregation. There are only *two* to Day, one in *Denny* and the other in *Campsie*.

Thursday, July 15th. I have been busy in dealing with the Distress'd a good Part of this Day ; we have only as far as I know yet about a *Dozen* or *thirteen* newly awakened of them who belong to this Congregation, since *Thursday* last, and about *fourteen* we know of from *Gargunnock*, *Kippen* and

* It was the Preparation *Sabbath* before the Communion.

Campsie ; besides these, *one* from *Muthil*, and *one* from *Carnock*. There was --- a Trilapse in Fornication fell down yesterday in the Barn just as I was dismissing the Distress'd : She was to be led home ; was with me to Day ; and in a hopeful Way. May the good and free SPIRIT of the LORD remain with us ; I am willing, with a Dependance on Grace to take no Rest ; to direct them under his Conduct to JESUS CHRIST. Tho' we have had some every Day, yet we have had fewer belonging to this Parish these eight Days past than for some Weeks before : Yet, blessed be the LORD, it is made up with Strangers who have carried it home to their own Congregations ; who I hope shall be made as Leaven to leaven the whole Lump.

Monday, July 19th. We had a good Day from the Presence of the LORD yesterday : There was a great Noise among the dry Bones both Forenoon and Afternoon. There were a good many Strangers from beyond *Stirling* and from *Fife* : There were *two* of these at a Distance observed --- under deep Concern : But they went away without speaking : *Eight* have been with me : *One* from *Gargunnock* awakened yesterday Afternoon : Blessed be the LORD it is going comfortably over the Mountain --- *Two* from *Kirkintilloch* and *one* from *Cumbernauld*, and only *four* of our own : Blessed be the LORD for all.

An Account of the most remarkable PARTICULARS concerning the PROGRESS of this blessed WORK, [both at KILSYTH and OTHER PLACES : With ATTESTATIONS from several Ministers.]

IT is the Desire of some, and I hope will be acceptable to many others, to have an Account of what shall come to my Knowledge of the Progress of this Work from time to time. This I shall endeavour to give in every print of this Narrative until it be finished, if the LORD will.

October 3d. The Lord's Supper was given a second time in this Congregation.-----

I was assisted in the giving of it by the Neighbouring Ministers and former Assistants who could be with me, such as the Rev. Mr. *John McLaurin* Minister of the Gospel at *Glasgow*, Mr. *James Warden* at *Cobler*, Mr. *John Macdonald* at *Campsie*.

He, Mr. James Burnside at Kirkintilloch, Mr. James Macky at St. Ninians, Mr. John Smith at Larbert, Mr. Speirs at Linlithgow, Mr. Thomas Gillespie at Carnock, Mr. Hunter at Salin, Mr. McCulloch at Cambuslang, and Mr. Porteous at Moneyvaird.---Some of these Rev. Brethren, who had not been formerly my Assistants, were invited to supply the Place of some of my Neighbours, who could not be with me at this Time ; or, to answer for the more than ordinary Demand of Preaching and other ministerial Work. Some of these Brethren also came to join with us of themselves, and kindly gave their Assistance as they were called. Mr. James Young Preacher of the Gospel at Falkirk having been invited, assisted by Preaching.

Upon the *Fast-day*, Sermon was in the *Fields* to a very numerous and attentive Audience by three Ministers, without any Intermission because of the shortness of the Day. Upon the *Friday's Evening* there was a Sermon in the Kirk, and there was a good deal of Concern among the People. Upon the *Saturday* there was Sermon both in the Kirk and in the Fields.

Upon the *Lord's-Day*, the publick Service began about half an Hour after eight in the *Morning*, and continued without Intermission until half an Hour after eight in the *Evening*, when all was concluded. I preached the Action Sermon by the divine Direction and Assistance ; from *Ephesians ii. 7.* *That in the Ages to come he might shew the exceeding Riches of his Grace, in his Kindness toward us, through CHRIST JESUS.* There were twenty-two Services ; each consisting of about seventy Persons, except the last which had only a few, so that the Number of Communicants amounted to near fifteen Hundred. The Evening Sermon began immediately after the last Service. And tho' I desired that the Congregation in the *Fields* should be dismissed after the last Service ; yet they chose rather to continue together until all was over, when there were the most desirable Frame, and observable Concern among the People, that had ever been any where seen ; It began to be considerable, when the Rev. Mr. John Warden Minister of the Gospel at *Campsie* preached, and it continued and increased greatly, while the Rev. Mr. Speirs preached, who concluded the publick Work of this Day in the *Fields*.

Upon the *Monday*, there were Sermons both in the Kirk and in the *Fields*. There was a good deal observable Concern, and several brought under spiritual Distress in the *Fields*.

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In the Evening two Ministers had successively publick Discourses, unto the numerous Distress'd convened in the Church. As also upon the *Tuesday* Morning there was a Sermon preached, and a Discourse by another Minister containing suitable Instructions and Directions, both to the Awakened and to them who had never attained to any Sense and Sight of their Sin and Danger.

The spiritual *Fruits* of this solemn and extraordinary Dispensation of Word and Sacrament are, as far as known to me,

1. Several *Christless* and *secure Sinners* were awakened to a sight of their Sin and Misery, the most Part of whom were Strangers from other Congregations at a Distance. *Zion's* mighty King brought the Wheel of the Law over them, and sent them home with broken and contrite Hearts.

2dly, Some who came here without any sensible *Relief* from the spiritual *Distress*, and *Law-Work* they had been under for a long Time, felt such a Time of the MEDIATOR's Power, as enabled them to embrace JESUS CHRIST, with such Distinctness, as to know that they had done it : A sovereignly gracious LORD, who comforts them that are cast down, filling them at the same Time, with such a feeling of his Love shed abroad in their Hearts by the HOLY GHOST given unto them, as they could not contain ; but were constrained to break forth with Floods of Tears in the most significant Expressions of their own Vileness and Unworthiness, and of the deep Sense they had of the exceeding Riches of God's Grace in his Kindness shown towards them through JESUS CHRIST.

3dly, There were a great many who declared to me, that while they were at the Lord's-Table, and at other Times during this Attendance, they had more than ordinary Feelings of the Love of GOD to their Souls, and out-goings of their Love towards the altogether lovely JESUS ; and these not only of the *elder* Sort ; but some who were *very young*. A judicious solid Christian told me, That he was so much in this blessed Situation, as he could scarcely restrain himself from crying out.

There were many Strangers from a great Distance who came hither to keep this Feast to the LORD ; several of them of *Note* and *Distinction* in the World, of *great Penetration* and *Judgment*, and *long Experience* in the Christian-Life, who declared themselves well satisfied with what they had heard, seen and felt, by the LORD's Mercy in this Place, and returned

ed to their Houses joyful and glad in Heart, for the Goodness that the LORD had shewed unto his People.

I record all this to the Praise and Glory of our God in and through JESUS CHRIST; and that I may mention the loving Kindness of the LORD, and the Praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great Goodness towards the House of *Israel*, which he hath bestowed on them, according to his Mercies, and according to the Multitude of his loving Kindnesses.

It will be agreeable Tydings, to all who desire and pray for the Coming of the Kingdom of GOD, to be informed that this *Out-pouring* of the HOLY SPIRIT is considerably observable to the *Northward* beyond what hath been formerly mentioned in this Narrative. Not to be particular now as to the much greater Progress of this blessed Work in the Parishes of *Gargunnock* and *St. Ninians*; I shall at this Time give some particular Account of the remarkable Coming of the COMFORTER to the Parish of MUTHEL, to convince many there of Sin, of Righteousness, and of Judgment.

[*An Account of the Revival of Religion at MUTHEL.*]

THIS Parish is situate in the *Shire* of *Perth* and Presbytery of *Auchterarder* about *four Miles* to the *North-west* of the said Presbytery Seat. They have been many Years under the Pastoral Care of the Rev. Mr. *William Halley*, an able and sufficient Minister of the new Testament, and one who is known to be laborious and faithful. The Reader will be informed much better, by a Letter which I received from the said Rev. Brother, upon the *second* of this Current *October*, than by any Abstract I can give of it: Which Letter is as follows.

Reverend and dear Brother,

For some Time past, I have been much refreshed with Tydings of great Joy, not only from abroad, *viz. New-England*, and other remote Parts, but also from *different Corners* of our *own Land*, particularly from the Parish whereof you have the Pastoral Charge, from whence I hear of a Gathering of the People to the blessed SHILOH.

That you may rejoice with me and help with your Prayers at the Throne of Grace --- I tho't it proper to acquaint you with something of the like glorious Work in this Congregation.

tion.--- I do not in this Missive, pretend to give you a full and particular Account of what the LORD has done amongst us for some Time past.--- In *general*, for about a Year hence, there has been an unusual Stirring and seeming Concern thro' this Congregation, and some now and then falling under Convictions.-- A closer Attention to the Word preached, and a receiving of it with an apparent Appetite, was by my self and others observed.--- Until the Time the Sacrament of the *Lord's Supper* was dispensed here, which was the *third Sabbath* of *July* last, at which Time, I think, our conquering REDEEMER made some visible In-roads upon the Kingdom of *Satan*. I hope there are not a few, both in this and other Congregations, that can say, *That GOD was in this Place, and that they felt his Power, and saw his Glory*.--- But whatever the LORD was pleased, to shed down of the Influences of his SPIRIT upon that solemn Occasion, comparatively speaking, may be accounted but a Day of small Things, in respect of what a gracious GOD, has been pleased to do among us since---I must acknowledge, to the Praise of our gracious GOD, that an unusual Power hath attended the Word preached, *every Sabbath-Day* since ; *few* if any *Sabbaths* having passed but some have been awakened, and particularly *last Lord's Day*, which, I hope I may say, was a Day of the Son of Man in this Place : for, besides the *general Concern* that was seen in this Congregation, about *eighteen Persons*, which I came to know of that Night, were prick'd at the Heart, and deeply wounded with the Arrows of the ALMIGHTY, and I expect to hear of a great deal more of them---I have been very agreeably entertained with the Visits of distressed Souls crying out for CHRIST, *and what shall we do to be saved ?* And I may say, That the Work of the Law has been severe, and outwardly noticeable upon all that that I have conversed with ; their Convictions have been deep, cutting, and abiding, not (as we have formerly seen) *like a Morning Cloud and early Dew, that soon passeth away*. And yet, I have not observed in any that I have spoke with, the least tendency to Despair ; but giving so far as I can judge, satisfying Evidences, of a kindly Work of the SPIRIT, and the Law acting the Part of a School-Master, leading them to CHRIST ; in whom, I hope a great many of them are safely landed and have had their Souls filled with Peace & Joy in believing ; and some have received such a Measure of the Joys of Heaven, that the narrow crazy Vessel could hold no more. (*To be continued*)